

REPORT CONCERNING REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE CHINESE NEW DEMOCRATIC YOUTH CORPS

Report by Comrade Li Ch'ang to the Second National Representatives'
Congress of the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps, June 27, 1953

It is not more than four years since the inception of the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps. During these four years our great fatherland has experienced great changes. Our people, under the great leadership of Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, have already fundamentally overthrown the criminal rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. Our people have also established and consolidated the people's democratic dictatorship, triumphantly carried on the Anti-US Aid-Korea struggle, fundamentally completed a series of projects on social democratic reform and economic restoration, and now have begun to enter into the new historic period of the First Five-Year Plan of reconstruction.

During the great changes of these four years or more China's organization of youth and of progressive elements (the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps) under the direct leadership of the Party, have energetically participated in the work of reconstruction and protection of the country. In these practical struggles they have unceasingly trained and uplifted themselves. Now the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps has already become a fighting organization with over 380,000 branches and 9,000,000 Corps members. The Corps is gradually strengthening its work among the broad masses of youth and to unite more closely the youth of the country into the orbit of the Chinese Communist Party.

The reconstruction work of the Corps organization in the past has been carried out in accordance with the present provisions of the Corps Constitution. The fundamental principles of the present Corps constitution have, in both the past and the present, been the basis for our Corps' program of reconstruction. In order to cope with the circumstances and tasks which have developed and changed, and to reflect the new experiences of the Corps' reconstruction in recent years we must make necessary revisions of certain aspects in the present Corps constitution. Now on behalf of the First-term Corps Central Committee I wish to submit to the Congress for its inspection a report on the revision of the constitution.

1. Concerning the Nature and Tasks of the Corps

The Youth Corps was established and nurtured under the intimate concern and guidance of the Chinese Communist Party and our great leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung. The Corps is an organization of the masses of progressive youth. It is the auxiliary and reserve corps of the Party. For the past four or more years we have loyally observed this provision of the Party concerning the nature and tasks of the Youth Corps and that is why, in its actual work, the Corps has achieved such remarkable results.

Because our New Democratic Revolutionary mission has been successfully accomplished we have gradually passed from the New Democracy to the new historic task of Socialism. The general principles of the Corps constitution, which have already been placed before the people and the youth of the entire

nation, have set forth in definite terms: Our youth must "follow along the path led by our great leader Mao Tse-tung, and engage in the struggle for the gradual realization of national reconstruction and gradual transition into a Socialist society."

The fulfillment of this new historic task demands that we strengthen our education of youth, unceasingly raise their level of political consciousness and cultivate in them a new moral character. This will enable them to conscientiously subordinate their individual interest to the national interest, untiringly study new knowledge and new techniques, energetically engage in all kinds of useful labor, gladly participate in group activity and courageously contend with all difficulties involved in the actual work. Thus it is necessary (when revising the general principles of the Corps Constitution) to include: "The Youth Corps assists the Party in educating youth in the Communist spirit, so that they will become a generation of youths who are fervently patriotic, loyal to the people, versed in knowledge, disciplined, courageous, diligent, lively, and unafraid of difficulty".

The youth of New China should be patriotic, but it should also be internationalistic. Today the welfare of our fatherland and the welfare of the people of the world are completely identical. In each achievement we make towards the reconstruction and protection of the fatherland we are becoming more closely connected with the victorious struggle for the preservation of world peace. Thus in the revision draft of the Corps constitution it is clearly stipulated: "The Youth Corps loyally supports the principle of internationalism, unity of the world's democratic youth, consolidation of the Peace Front, Democracy and Socialism led by the Soviet Union, and preserve world peace."

Comrade Stalin has instructed us by saying: "To guarantee Party leadership is the most fundamental and most important matter in the entire work of the Communist Youth Corps." The Youth Corps is forever loyal to the Party. It always energetically propagates and loyally carries out the Party's resolutions and policies. It carries out all of its own activities in accordance with the Party's policies and directives. Whatever the Party says the Youth Corps should do. Thus the draft revision of the corps constitution plainly stipulates: "The Youth Corps carries on its entire work under the direct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The local Corps organization is subject to the guidance and supervision of the Party organization of the same level."

2. Concerning Corps Members

The main problem in the reconstruction of the Corps organization is to exercise correct control over the conditions for admission to Corps membership.

What kind of people can become admitted to the Corps? The revision draft of the Corps constitution stipulates: "All youths of either sex, who are over 14 and under 25 years of age, who acknowledge the Corps constitution, who participate in one of the Corps' organizations, who carry out the resolutions of the Corps and pay the Corps dues, may become members of the Corps." In accordance with this stipulation all youth who wish to be admitted

to the Corps, (are of the right age and have had their backgrounds clearly investigated) must obey the stipulations in the Corps constitution which advocate support of the Chinese Communist Party. They must also recognize that the Chinese Communist Party is the organizer and leader of the Youth Corps, and must be willing to struggle loyally under the Party's leadership for the gradual realization of national reconstruction and the gradual transition into a socialist society. They must also not only give their verbal support but must (through their own actual revolutionary action and their own productive activities or through positive manifestations in their work or their studies) energetically promote the realization of this principle. They must be determined to obey the resolutions of the Party and the Corps and energetically fulfill the duties assigned to them by the Corps.

The revision draft of the Corps constitution abolishes the stipulation in the present Corps constitution concerning the period of candidacy. This of course should not be interpreted as a lowering of the conditions for membership. The organization of the Corps has now assumed a national scale. Before the broad masses of youth are admitted to the Corps they should be subjected to Corps training and inspection. When absorbing the youth into the Corps it is necessary to make a careful investigation. All who lack the qualifications for admission into the Corps should be given further training and not be absorbed into the Corps in a slipshod manner.

The Youth Corps is an organization of progressive youth which has a definite age limit. When over-aged Corps members apply for withdrawal from the Corps organization it should be thought of as a natural thing. Thus the revision draft of the Corps constitution supplements the provisions concerning over-aged Corps members as follows: "Corps members, who are over 25 years of age, and who wish to withdraw from membership should submit a declaration of withdrawal to the branch committee." Certain localities have sometimes required all their over-aged Corps members to withdraw or have put up all kinds of obstructions for over-aged Corps members when they do apply for withdrawal. They have even criticized them as being ideologically backward and this is not right.

3. Concerning the Duties and Rights of Corps Members

A Youth Corps member needs only to loyally carry out the duties he assumes towards the Party and the Corps to be a true Corps member. Those who only verbally "acknowledge the Corps constitution," but actually do not completely carry out the duties of Corps members are not worthy of the glorious name of a Youth Corps member.

The Youth Corps member has the duty to strive to learn the Marxist Lenin doctrine and the Party policy, and to propagate it among the masses of youth. For only in this way can they unceasingly raise the level of their own political consciousness and ideology, and only then can they better unite the youth in the service of the people.

The Corps members must loyally carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Party and Corps organization. When a Corps member receives an assignment he should, if he does not understand it, boldly raise questions and opinions of his own. After he has received the assignment he should do his best to overcome all difficulties to ensure the fulfillment of the task.

The Youth Corps member should have the spirit of patriotic labor. In China labor is considered the most glorious occupation. Every Corps member should show a warm affection for labor, and be determined to be a model laborer. No matter what kind of work one is responsible for and no matter in what position one is placed he should not consider it just a "small" matter. Rather he should look upon it as a part of the glorious labor that is reconstructing our great fatherland and should apply himself to do it with his whole heart and soul.

In the great work of reconstruction for the fatherland the Corps member not only must have matchless enthusiasm and courage but also practical ability. This means that we must make greater efforts to obtain new knowledge, study science and technical knowledge, raise our cultural standards, increase our functional ability, and coordinate our courage and our positive spirit with the increased knowledge we have learned.

The protection of the fatherland is the sacred duty of every Youth Corps member. As long as our enemies, the imperialists and their running dogs, exist for a day we must at all times increase our revolutionary vigilance. Each Corps member should strive to train his own body, study military knowledge, and at all times be prepared to contribute his all to the protection of our great fatherland and our happy life.

The Youth Corps member should have high Communist morality and character. He should have model conduct as to the observance of national laws, preservation of public property, and the maintenance of revolutionary order. He should bravely correct his own mistakes. He should, with respect to the defects and mistakes of any comrade or any leadership organ, offer criticism sincerely, constructively, and in the spirit of friendliness. He should be willing to combat all actions opposed to the welfare of the people, and should in no way have fear of, or be discouraged by, temporary setbacks.

The Youth Corps member should at all times preserve contact between the Corps organization and the masses of youth. He should strive to make himself the friend and model of all youth. He should show concern for the livelihood of the masses, listen to their opinions and consult with them when problems arise. Furthermore he should never place himself above the masses and appoint himself their boss. The Youth Corps member should struggle to fulfill the task of the Party for uniting the masses of youth, and in doing so, should patiently use as fundamental working methods persuasion, education, and his own model conduct. He should determinedly oppose the use of forceful orders in carrying out this work.

The Corps organization should teach and supervise Corps members as to the carrying out of the above-stated duties for Corps members.

When teaching and supervising the Corps members to carry out these duties the Corps organization should guarantee that the rights of each Corps member shall not be encroached upon. This is an important prerequisite to the promotion of democracy within the Corps and the cultivation of the spirit of constructiveness and creativeness among Corps members. Thus the revision draft of the Corps members have the following rights:

- "(1) To freely and frankly discuss any problem concerning the work of the Corps in the Corps meetings and Corps publications.
- "(2) To elect and be elected within the Corps
- "(3) To criticize at the Corps meetings any of the Corps' working personnel and its leadership organs.
- "(4) To submit petitions, suggestions and declarations to the various levels of Corps organizations and to the Central Committee."

4. Concerning the System of Democratic Centralism Within the Corps

The Youth Corps, from the very day of its inception, has considered as the guiding principle of its internal life the long-tried principle of the Party, namely, democratic centralism.

The internal life of a healthy Corps should elevate the spirit of constructiveness and initiative, and eliminate defects in the work. This is an important guarantee for the consolidation of the Corps' unity. The Corps organizations of the various levels should convene Corps members assemblies, Corps representatives assemblies, and representatives conferences at the proper time. The Corps organizations should also give seriously prepared reports to the assemblies, realistic summaries of the working experience of the members, and make proper arrangements for elections. For the latter they should choose worthy liaison members and staff members from the masses of youth to assume positions of leadership. The Corps committees of the various levels should realistically establish a committee system of collective leadership. Furthermore they should change the circumstances whereby important problems are not discussed by Corps committee conference but decided by the secretary or by a small number of Committee members. The Corps staff should also be taught to constructively and correctly initiate a program of criticism and self-criticism within the Corps and with emphasis on criticism from below. The staffs of the individual Corps should not adopt a cold attitude toward the criticism nor should they suppress criticism or take revenge against the person making the criticism. This is not allowed under the Corps discipline and must be corrected with resoluteness.

Democracy and centralism can never be separated. We must, with correct leadership, fully develop the democratic spirit. At the same time we must strengthen the Corps' system of centralism on the basis of the democratic spirit. We must consolidate the spirit of conscientious discipline within the Corps and firmly maintain the principle that the individual should obey the organization, the minority obey the majority, and the lower echelon obey the higher echelon. Only thus will we be able to consolidate the uniformity of ideas and the unity of action within the Corps, and more closely unite the youth within the Party orbit in order to fulfill the task assigned to us by the Party.

5. Concerning the Basic Organs of the Corps

The basic organs of the Corps are the Corps' foundation. They are the fundamental units which carry out the work of the Corps for establishing contact with the broad masses of youth.

The various levels of leadership organizations of the Youth Corps should direct their efforts towards the basic organs. They should make up-to-date appraisals of the conditions regarding the basic organs, summarize the experiences obtained from the activities of the basic organs, and give practical and effective guidance and assistance to the basic organs.

The correct selection and training of the cadres of the basic organs is an important prerequisite for the strengthening of the work of the basic organs. The upper levels of Corps committees should undertake the necessary training of the cadres of the basic organs, give them practical and effective guidance, and be tolerant of their difficulties. They should never use the cadres of the basic organs as if they were divorced from productive activity. They should resolutely put an end to certain phenomena which still exist in some localities, namely, the cadres of the basic organs hold too many concurrent positions and have too many meetings.

The basic organs are set up in accordance with the productive units and working units. All Corps members in a plant, mine, farm, village, office, school or street, should be formed into a united basic organ of the Corps. The basic organ may be a branch, general branch or Corps committee.

All basic organs should direct all their work so it will serve the central administrative task of their own Party unit. For example, the plant and farm basic organs of the Corps should have for their own central work the education and leadership of youth in production and study. But in order to do this work well the basic organs of Corps must, under the guidance and supervision of the Party committee, set up their own normal work. This normal work includes the normal attention the organization pays to the cultural, entertainment and athletic activities, which suit the characteristics of youth and satisfy their particular needs. Only thus can the work of our basic organs be made more lively, and the basic organs be made to unite the broad masses of youth more closely for fulfilling the task assigned them by the Party.

When the basic organs are carrying out their work they should give special attention to the broad aspects of the work of their own units. Thus the Corps constitution necessarily stipulates that: "The basic organs of the Corps should, with a positive and responsible attitude, make suggestions relating to the improvement of the work of their own units". The organs of the Youth Corps should, in all units participating in national reconstruction, and especially in localities where there are no basic organs of the Party and become energetic propagators and implementors of the Party's resolutions."

6. Concerning the Chinese Pioneers

The Party has charged the Youth Corps with the practical work of leadership in organizing the young people and children. This is an important responsibility for the Corps. Since the First National Representatives' Congress of the Youth Corps the work among the young people and children has achieved remarkable results. Young people's and children's organizations have been set up in the elementary schools all over the country. The work and activities of these organizations have influenced millions of young people and children. The organizations have become an important force for supplementing the schools in the education of children. In order to more aptly reflect the nature and tasks of these organizations, and to better meet their progressive needs, it has been necessary to change the name of the organization to the "Chinese Pioneers". There has also been added to the Corps constitution a chapter on "Organization of the Chinese Pioneers."

The rapid development of the organization of the young people and children has made the need more urgent for the Youth Corps to strengthen its leadership in the work of these two groups. The various levels of Corps committees should, in accordance with both subjective and objective conditions, correctly guide the development of the Pioneers. In addition the Corps committees should be concerned and offer assistance for the elevation of the political consciousness and functional ability of the adjutants. Furthermore, the activities of the Pioneers should be made increasingly suitable for the physical and mental development of the young people and children. The activities of the Pioneers should center around the important task of striving constantly for the acquisition of knowledge.

7. Concerning the Youth Corps Organizations within the Chinese People's Liberation Army

The Youth Corps within the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army constitute an important part of the organization of the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps. These groups add to the glory of the Youth Corps by their patriotism in combat. Thus it has also been necessary to include in the draft Corps constitution a chapter on the organization of the Youth Corps within the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Fellow comrades the revisions and additions of the draft for the Corps constitution will surely have an important role in strengthening the reconstruction program of the Corps. We firmly believe that under the intimate leadership and guidance of the Party and Chairman Mao for the great task of energetically participating in the reconstruction and protection of the fatherland the rank and file of the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps will become ever stronger. It will, by actual conduct, continue to prove worthy of being called the loyal children of the Party and of the fatherland. Members of the Corps will forever sustain themselves in the glorious title of being the Party's closest auxiliary and reserve corps.

Long live our great fatherland!

Long live the great and glorious Chinese Communist Party!

Long live the great leader of the Chinese people and Chinese youth,
our most beloved teacher, Chairman Mao!